Dear House & Senate Members,

I am writing regarding CT House Bill 618 and requesting that you do not vote to put border tolls on our CT roads. It would unfairly affect those of us who live close to the borders and commute out of state to work and those who commute into CT to work as well.

We live near Danbury and have commuted out of state to work for over 30 years. Adding tolls to the already higher gas prices and high taxes in CT and the congestion in commuting to and from Westchester County would adversely affect not only our pocket books and quality of life, but it would deter new people and young adults from choosing to work or live in CT in towns near our state border. Tolls would affect people who drive to Brewster to take the train into the city for work or for pleasure as well. They would deter out of state shoppers from choosing to shop at the Danbury Fair Mall and adversely affect other shopping, service and entertainment industries that are located close to the state borders. Tolls would also increase traffic on narrow local roads by those trying to avoid the highway tolls which would affect the safety, air quality, and small town feel of our towns.

Many people are already leaving our state, our home values are not rising at the rate of the national average, and a decision to add tolls would not help to keep or draw people to live or work here. For the future of our state, and for the sake of our small towns, our pocketbooks, our CT home values, our shopping and entertainment industries and citizens living close to state borders, please do not vote to put tolls on our CT roads!!!

Sincerely,

Diane S Ryan Bethel, CT